

Montana's Fight to Contain Eurasian Watermilfoil

2003

Aquatic Invasive Species Act

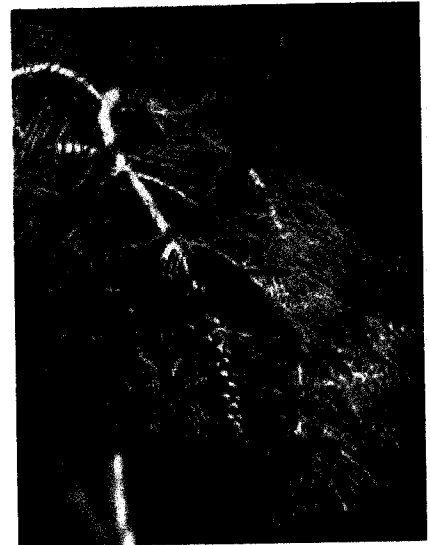
- Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) was added to the Montana Noxious Weed List.

2007

- First confirmed siting in Noxon Rapid Reservoir by Fish, Wildlife & Parks,
- \$5000 from the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) to FWP for additional survey work.

2008

- \$54,300 from NWTF to Sanders County and EWM Task Force,
- 20,000 square feet of bottom barriers were installed along boat launch sites in the Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge reservoirs,
- Comprehensive mapping of EWM and Curly leaf pondweed in the Noxon/Cabinet Gorge reservoirs. Done by Dr. John D. Madsen from Mississippi State University,
 - Cabinet Gorge Reservoir estimated that 195 acres of Curly leaf pondweed, and 117 acres of EWM were mapped,
 - Noxon Rapids Reservoir estimated that 401 acres of Curly leaf pondweed, and 247 acres of EWM were mapped,
 - EWM was not found in the Thompson Falls Reservoir.



2009

- \$19,190 from NWTF to EWM Task Force; \$70,000 from NWTF to Sanders County, Total EWM = \$89,190
- The NWTF allocated funds to hire Heidi Sedivy, EWM Education Coordinator based out of Sanders County. During the "boat season" Heidi was able to reach over 400 boaters at various campgrounds and boat launches in the Noxon/Cabinet Gorge area,
- The Environmental Assessment was conducted and completed by Tetra-Tech, Inc. of Helena,
- 32,000 square feet of bottom barriers were installed,
- A dye/herbicide plot study was done on two, 20-acre plots on the Noxon Rapids Reservoir which was conducted by Dr. Kurt Getsinger with the US Army Corp of Engineers,
- A summary of herbicide research plots showed 80% control one year following treatment. Native whitewater buttercup and native pondweed species are present in plots treated in 2009.

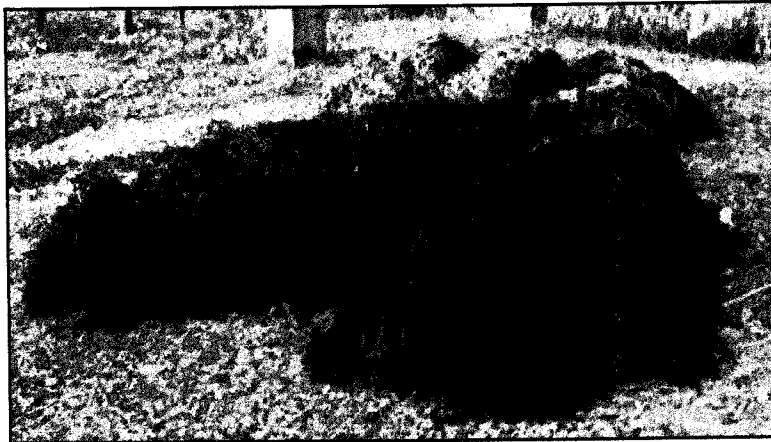
2010

- NWTF funded - \$23,721 to EWM Task Force; \$150,000 to Sanders County; \$40,068 to EWM Check Station through Department of Agriculture, Total EWM = \$213,789
- 80 acres were treated with herbicides in Block and Strip research plots,
- 32,000 square feet of bottom barriers were installed (a project that began in 2008),
- In June a EWM Management Area was implemented at the Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs, and lower Clark Fork River including the mouths of tributaries and a 200 foot



setback beyond full pool or high water mark beginning at Plains, MT, and extending to the Montana/Idaho border. By enacting this EWM Management Area it made it mandatory for all watercrafts to stop and be inspected,

- Established two mandatory boat check stations at Troy, and Plains that inspected 4,250 watercraft. All boaters were required to stop and have their watercraft inspected for EWM and other invasive species. In addition, 3 roving check stations were set up at strategic locations across Montana. From May to September 1,920 recreationalists had their watercraft and recreational vehicles inspected, and received information brochures about the danger of invasive species,
- Heidi Sedivy continued to engage the public at campgrounds and boat launches in the Noxon/Cabinet Gorge areas. In addition, AVISTA and Idaho cooperatively participated in a Montana/Idaho border check station on Highway 200 inspecting over 3,000 watercrafts,
- The Department of Transportation donated \$22,000 worth of signage for permanent and roving check stations,
- In August and September several new infestations of EWM were confirmed on the Missouri river. These sites included.
 - Toston Dam and upstream for approximately six (6) miles,
 - Cottonwood Channel and Irrigation ditch on the Wildlife Management area north of Townsend,
 - A small back water channel south of York's Island FAS,
 - A back water channel below Douillard FAS on the Jefferson River,
 - The Dredge Cuts below Fort Peck Reservoir,
 - Timber Creek to Bone Trail, Fort Peck Marina, and Big Dry Arm on Fort Peck Reservoir.



There were 1,316 pounds of EWM diver dredged at the Toston Dam location in mid-October 2010.

2011 - Sanders County

Ewm Education + Outreach → \$12,150

Treatment of EWM → \$53,000

Valley County

Ewm Survey and Education → \$49,133

DOH
Training

AVISTA

Total: \$114,283

Working together
DOT, Forest Service, BLM,
Reservations, DNR, NRCS,